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October 15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Reply to comments by Buckeye Hills Regional Council Regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity
Fund WC Docket NOS. 19-126 and 10-90

Madam Secretary:

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the comments submitted by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council on September 19, 2019.

As they so aptly documented, southeast Ohio is often overlooked for digital opportunities leaving a large portion of our beautiful county as a digital desert. In today's world, access to the internet is vital for education, commerce, and communications. We do not have access to the internet where we live. We also do not have cell phone coverage for three quarters of our county. I know this as I travel the county daily for my job.

For ten years we lived in the southern part of the county and the only way we could use our cell phones or access the internet was by hiking up our hill for a quarter of a mile. Where we live now, only one of the cell phone carriers will work and even then, our signal strength is weak.

When traveling the county for my job, I will often carry a MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System) Radio in order to stay in contact with the office since I know I will not have cell phone coverage. These are the same radios used by the Sheriff's office and other first responders. There are areas in the county that not only does not have broadband or cell phone coverage, but even the MARCS system does not work. According to the Department of Administrative Services, the mission of the MARCS radio system is *"to provide Ohio's first responders and public safety providers with state-of-the-art wireless digital communications, and to promote interoperability, in order to save lives and maximize effectiveness in both normal operations and emergency situations."* Although I would love to have access to Netflix and Amazon, I'm more concerned about basic public safety.

I have also heard staff discuss when they have been unable to download homework that is available on the internet when their child is sick from school. How can our youth compete in today's world when they don't have access to the same opportunities as children in other areas of the state?

Just as the Rural Electrification Act brought electric to rural homes, we need broadband brought to southeast Ohio and fully support the comments submitted by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hanna , Hocking County Resident